



THEATRICAL NOTES AND COMMENTS BY W. H. SMITH.

The seasons of 1916 and 17 are upon us and the outlook is more than encouraging. These conditions were mostly brought about through the continued success of our own Bert A. Williams, who has long since been considered the peer of all comedians and the biggest Box Office attractions of the famous Zigfields Follies. Next to him comes the people's favorite comedian, Sherman H. Dudley, who is now being featured with the biggest and best show in the Columbia Wheel. Dave Marion's "World of Frolics" which ran all the summer at the Columbia here, so highly did Mr. Marion think of Mr. Dudley that a few weeks ago he made him a present of a \$3,000 Touring Car, next in order is "Dancing Dotson," who is with "The Step Lively Girls" now at the Columbia here, then there are a number of other Colored Acts that are featured in the big Burlesque Shows, but most of the Colored Acts seek vaudeville of which there is a large number. Among them that are considered Standard Vaudeville Acts are: Fidler Shelton, now playing on the W. V. A. time, being booked solid, Davis & Walker, McCaer & Panky, Tribble & Robinson, Cooper & Smith, Rucker & Kempf, Robinson & Lemonier, The Winks, Musical Bysons, Henderson & Thomas, Musical Spillers, then there are several big acts. Will Mastin and Virgie Richards are the head of the Holiday in Dixie Act with 10 people. A few weeks ago this act created a sensation at McVickers and the N. Y. Variety, the leading vaudeville paper of the world gave them a fine write up in which they made mention that they would be accepted in a Broadway production. The Ten Black Dots is another act that has forged to the front and is in demand in vaudeville. Joe Sheffel and Sam Davis are the features.

Frank Rogers the Premier Ventriloquist has added his wife to his act which makes her the only Colored lady in the world that has been seen in Ventriloquism, it is a decided novelty. The war in Europe has played havoc with amusement in that country, at present there are only a few Colored acts that are working on the Moss and Brill Circuit. Belle Davis & Pinks, Scott & Whaley, Singing Harry Brown and two Chicago boys, Miller & Lyles, are all doing well considering war times.

The regular season in our theatres opens on Labor day and we have only the Grand to look to for something bordering on the legitimate as the Pekin has passed away. In the passing of the Pekin as a theatre many regrets were expressed on all sides, it was there that the late Aida O. Walker made her last appearance in this city and it was her greatest triumph, financially, artistically and socially. It was during this engagement which was promoted and financed by Teenan Jones that Miss Walker gathered around her the ones she had taught Terp-

sichorean. There were two rival companies, the Happy Girls and the Porto Rico Girls, she had taught and staged both the acts and never did they dance like they did the two weeks they played at the Pekin. She told me it was the happiest moments of her stage life, her two weeks' stay at the Pekin.

The Grand has had a very prosperous summer season and we have to give all the credit to Billy King and his talented wife, professionally known as Hattie McIntosh. The King Co., have had a run of 18 weeks, changing plays twice weekly, excepting the Carnival Week when by urgent request of the many Masons who were here that the playlet "Now I am a Mason" was continued the entire week to enormous business. Billy King has established a precedent that will be hard for any other producer to duplicate. During his 18 weeks engagement he produced and staged 35 original playlets including lyrics and music. The music was written by his Musical Director, J. Benton Overstreet. Mr. King had surrounded himself with a very versatile Co., both in comedy and drama and singing. Among the male members who showed great ability as one of the best general performers now before the public was Howard Kelly. Mr. Walker showed well as a dancer, but to mention the ladies you have got to hand it to robust Stella Harris, never did she miss fire when she had a song to sing. None will ever forget her singing the "New Dance" and "Walking the Dog." Miss Anna Holt held her own as a Prima Donna. The soulsetto honors were divided between Miss Burroughs Brooks, who is a very nimble dancer, and Georgia Kelly, who can go some anywhere on the stage. The Manager of the Grand is young in experience and whether he will be able to fill up the gap made vacant by the closing of the King players remains to be seen. I will inform him that a good performance can be given regardless of the color of the actors. Mr. Johnson must come to the conclusion that it is the public that must be catered to and not the performers. He is cheating the public, especially the regular patrons of the Grand whenever he books an act regardless of color or reputation for an entire week. All vaudeville patrons generally attend twice weekly as the policy of the house announces entire change of program Monday and Thursday. It is an injustice to the patrons who go during any of the first 3 days and see 5 new acts then return during the last half of the week to have to only see four acts that will be entertaining, as they don't want to see the one held over the second time. If Mr. Johnson will see this point his last half of the week will see an improvement at the Box Office.

#### Passing Glimpse of Show Folks.

Madam Patti Brown is a dyed in the wool American Giants base ball fan and rooter. I met her at the ball park during the A. B. C. series and was

## Thomas Jefferson, the Father and the Founder of the Democratic Party Was a Strong Abolitionist

Everybody bows to the man who works his way up from the bottom like Douglass, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield and a host of other Americans, styled "self-made men." Indeed, America is the home of self-made men, but it is given to a mighty few born aristocrats to possess those traits of character that make men great reformers and useful members of society and of their country.

The man who can forego the free, easy and sensuous pleasures open to the scions of a wealthy aristocracy is equally as noble, brave and self-sacrificing a hero as he who comes up from lowly places to power and affluence.

Thomas Jefferson was born rich, he inherited all the landed estates and slaves he ever owned. There was neither ambition nor need for him to shoulder the burdens of government nor to assume any political responsibilities. But his great sense of human justice and right led him to associate largely with the middle class of society, persistently advocate abolition of slavery, and to found the democracy of America upon the basis that the "right of government rests in the consent of the governed."

And he meant all the governed, including the slaves, for Jefferson believed in enfranchising the Negro as well as releasing him from bondage.

#### Jefferson, Abolitionist.

Seven years before Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, when 25 years of age, he was elected a member of the colonial legislature of Virginia and his very first act was to introduce a bill for the emancipation of the slaves of Virginia.

Five years later, in 1774, when the American colonies were forming into a union for self-protection against British aggression he wrote the instructions to the delegates from Virginia to the continental congress, then to convene in Philadelphia. In these instructions he said:

"For the most trifling reasons, and sometimes for no conceivable reason at all, His Majesty (the King of England) has rejected laws of the most salutary tendency. THE ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC SLAVERY is the great object of desire in those colonies where it was, unhappily, introduced in their infant state. But previous to THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE SLAVES WE HAVE, it is necessary to exclude all further importations from Africa. Yet our repeated attempts to effect this, by prohibitions, and by imposing duties which might amount to a prohibition, have been hitherto defeated by His Majesty's negative."

Here is conclusive evidence that Jefferson sought not only the abolition of slavery, but also the enfranchisement of all the slaves then in the country as a means of obtaining their consent (i. e., their votes) to a government of their choice. Nor is this

the only evidence we have of Jefferson's hostility to the slavery system. The original draft of the Declaration of Independence, which he wrote, itself furnishes abundant proof of his position on this question.

In that instrument, as it was first presented to the congress, June 28, 1776, by the committee of which Mr. Jefferson was chairman, contained the following language:

"He has urged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty, in the persons of a distant people who never offended him; captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur a miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce."

As Washington was the military head, so was Jefferson the literary leader of the forces that founded our great democratic republic and from the foregoing it is readily seen that their scheme of government included not only the emancipation of the slaves, but also their incorporation into the body of the new nation's sovereign citizens.

#### Practical Social Equality.

It has become quite common for southern opponents of Negro equality with other citizens to quote Abraham Lincoln as opposed to such a proposition. Jefferson is never quoted in opposition to equal rights for the very good reason that he never resorted to ordinary political methods for success, but his every act and word strictly conformed to his rugged ideas of right and justice; he believed in absolute equal rights for all men, black or white, and he never uttered a word to the contrary. That he was not averse to social equality with Negroes was evidenced by the entertainment as his guest for several days at Monticello of the great Negro astronomer, Benjamin Banneker. Banneker was the son of a native African and assisted in surveying and laying out the city of Washington, D. C. Published an almanac and came to be a most noted scientist. Jefferson not only entertained Banneker, but invited many noted Virginians to meet and dine with him.

On one occasion when he was speaking against the continuance of slavery in this country, Mr. Jefferson exclaimed that "he trembled for his country when he remembered that God was just and that one hour of slavery or bondage is fought with more misery than whole ages of our colonial oppressions."

surprised to see how well she was posted on the fine points of the game. I interviewed her regarding her professional intentions this season and the first thing she fired at me was why I close the Pekin, that she had intended to give a recital in October but would have to go to some church. At the same time I suggested that all local entertainments could be given in the 8th Regiment Armory if arrangements could be made to that effect.

Among the moving picture productions we saw "The Natural Born Gambler," featuring Bert A. Williams, the subject was not the kind to allow an actor of Bert's ability to show to any advantage.

Speaking of movies we will soon see on the local screens a picture that has been promoted and backed by that ever energetic business man Mr. Teenan Jones. Look at the most beautiful business sign on State St., and all it reads is Teenan. The title of the Comedy Picture is "The Barber." Scenario and produced by Will Foster who produced the "Rail Road Porter." The story deals in everyday adventures of false love and laughable situations. The cast is composed of Edgar Lillison, of the Elite No. 2; Howard Kelly and Stella Harris, of the Billy King Co.; Sam Arnold, Elvin Joynes and others. Mr. Jones is considering the taking over of a theatre on State St., which enterprise would no doubt prove a success.

From time to time I hear many arguments regarding who was the original Big Four Comedians. Well I will inform that the Broad Ax is the first paper to give the correct names.

Billy Kersands, Harry Fidler, now Fidler & Shelton, Dan Avery, late of Avery & Hart and Jim Crosley, this was the great Minstrel Four. Kersands and Avery are dead.

Bailey and Buster are a young team of clever performers who are on the W. V. A. time.

There is a rumor that the well known team of Jerome & Lewis have split. McCarver & Pankey have 10 weeks booked solid over the W. V. A. time.

Will Mastons Holiday in Dixie are in Milwaukee, Loew time.

Sidney Perrin is expecting Joe Sandifer to team with him this season, as his wife will stay at home.

Fidler & Shelton are in the city and are booked in all the W. V. A. houses. It is reported and from Miss Carita Day (herself) that she has permanently retired from the stage and will be married in the near future to a Mr. Wm. Bronston.

Madam Patti Brown has been invited to go to Honolulu and Australia. She informs me that she will make the trip as soon as the war is over.

The Whitney Smart Set will go out this season in a new musical comedy "How Newtown Prepared." The rooster will be about the same as last season, T. L. Corwell will be manager.

I have received information from San Francisco, Cal., the Hon. Wise is very sick, he left here some time ago with a company of 20 people, destination, Honolulu.

The Quality Amusement Co. of New York City, is now operating in New York, Baltimore and Washington. They have gobbled up all the talent they can get with dramatic ability and

## Talks on

HEALTH,  
CLEANLINESS,  
PROPER LIVING,  
SANITATION, ETC.

BY

Dr. W. A. DRIVER

3300 So. State Street  
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#### CLEAN HANDS.

Health depends upon cleanliness as much as any other condition. The hands serve almost constantly during the hours we are awake. It is a fact that what enters by the mouth often defiles the whole body. The hands convey to the mouth nourishment, which it is possible to contaminate in transit. When we take into consideration the multiple uses of the hands, it is easy to understand the importance of clean hands. It pays to give this matter serious thought for life and death often depend upon this matter of clean hands.

Germs are very small organisms, too small to be seen with the naked eye, but millions of our own contemporaries have seen them by the use of the higher powers of the microscope. It is not a matter of doubt by persons who have done a reasonable amount of reading but we must admit that there are persons who are not so well informed. Those who have seen the micro-organisms under the higher powers of the microscope have doubtless been convinced of the efficacy of germ possibilities. They will be more

cautious than those who have not been so fortunate as to have seen them. Seeing is verily believing.

There is no doubt in the minds of those who know of the dangers that the habit of handshaking spreads disease. Filthy hands convey disease because of a combination of circumstances. It is a fine habit to wash the hands frequently in order to avoid accidentally spreading infection.

Those who do not believe in the germ theory are dangerous because they will not take proper precautions. The advanced thinkers of today believe more in prevention than in any branch of therapy. To prevent many maladies remember that the little things count and keep the hands clean. Typhoid fever is one of the terrible diseases spread by dirty hands. No one can say how many other diseases are capable of being spread in such a manner.

Keep the hands clean; it is a good habit. It will recommend you as a cautious person. The efficient are so because of cleanliness which is almost if not equivalent to caution and safety. Try safety first and clean hands.

in glancing over the names you will notice that the Pekin Stock Co. members are the stars. This same company made Carita Day a flattering offer a few weeks ago for their leading lady. It looks like this same company has made a big success in putting on the Broadway play with Colored players in Colored theatres. Some time ago the management of the Quality Co. wrote me regarding the securing of the Pekin for them to present an aggregation of all stars and embellished by Miss Marie Lucas. Miss Lucas has an orchestra of six young ladies. Owing to the Pekin being discontinued as a theatre, I referred them to the Grand but they may be seen at the old Alhambra as their performance consists of one show a night.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy King will enjoy a much needed rest in their own palatial home on South Park Ave. Mrs. King will give many social functions during her vacation. A number of her girlhood friends from Detroit, Mich., will visit her.

Lottie Grady has been here several weeks visiting her mother.

Manager Klein of the Monograms has been mighty hard at work keeping the houses open during the heated spell. Never before did the heat affect the State Street theatres. The Washington and Star were forced to close.

String Beans is attracting the usual attention paid him at the Monogram. Miss Fannie Wise will open next week. She will get a warm welcome with her sweet voice.

Henderson Smith's Ten Dark Knights open in Des Moines, enroute to Minneapolis, Minn.

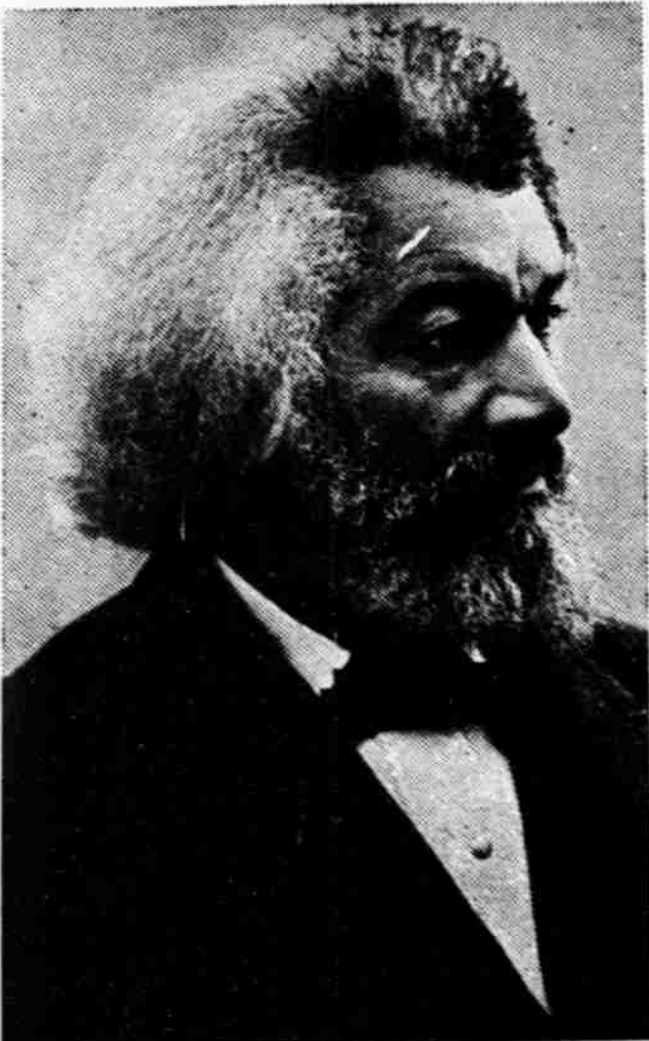
Mrs. E. Azalia Hackley, 3019 Calumet avenue, will leave the 23rd of this month on a singing and concert tour throughout the Eastern states.

Mrs. Louise Usselmann, the affable wife of Dr. Louie Usselmann, the popular jeweler and optician at 3150 S. State street, is considerable assistance to her husband in his place of business. She thoroughly understands how to wait on customers and to sell them anything they desire. Mrs. Usselmann is a very pleasant lady to meet.

#### MRS. CARRIE WARNER, THE SUCCESSFUL PAINLESS CHIROPODIST.

For more than twelve years, Mrs. Carrie Warner has successfully conducted a painless chiropodist parlor in the downtown district at 120 S. State street, opposite the Palmer House; 'phone, Central 5832.

She resides in a comfortable home at 5323 S. Dearborn street; residence 'phone, Drexel 3061. Mrs. Warner has many customers among the best and the wealthiest class of White persons, and she always greets her patrons with a pleasant smile.



THE LATE FREDERICK DOUGLASS.

The true history of Afro-American journalism in the United States cannot be written by omitting his name. For seventeen years he was the owner and the editor of the North Star at Rochester, New York and he has the honor of being the first Colored man in the United States to contribute an article to The North American Review in 1884.



HON. S. A. T. WATKINS.

Ex-Assistant Corporation Counsel of Chicago and Supreme Attorney for the Knights of Pythias throughout the world.